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January 5, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my dismay over the government's crackdown on Microsoft and state my relief in the settlement that was reached in November.

At a time when a substantial amount of commerce and industry has been lost to overseas venues, Microsoft is a hugely successful US company in which the country should take pride, not attempt to crush it.

In particular, it occurs to me that Microsoft has achieved this success in a competitive, but honorable manner. Unlike certain other highly profitable US firms, Microsoft has not made its profit on the backs of underpaid and marginally legal labor nor has it poisoned the environment or gouged the sick and elderly to make its profit.

Isn't it about time that we, as a country, reward this US success story instead of those who would manipulate the legal system to generate windfall profits for themselves and state governments.

The US should be proud of Microsoft and support its growth. I look forward to the continued success of Microsoft both as a user and fan of US technological growth.

Very truly yours,



Alice Waters

cc: Senator Rick Santorum